Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for routing calls to a destination gateway to establish a communication session call in a telecommunications network between a source user agent and a destination user agent over a path supported at least in part by a telephone network and an IP network, said IP network including a plurality of ingress and destination gateways, at least one proxy server, and at least one redirect server (RS), said method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a call setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent, wherein the source user agent is included in a public switched telephone network and the call set up request identifies the destination user agent;

b) forwarding the received call setup request to the redirect server;

c) receiving routing information or a request failure response from the redirect server;

d) proxying the call setup request by the at least one proxy server to a destination gateway selected from said routing information upon receiving the routing information from the redirect server, wherein the selected destination gateway can communicate with a public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent;

e) upon proxying the call setup request to the selected destination gateway, waiting for a response from the selected destination gateway;

f) upon receiving the response from the selected destination gateway within a

predetermined time, establishing a communication session using said selected destination gateway; and

g) if the response is not received within the predetermined time, sending the call setup request to a succeeding destination gateway selected from the routing information and reporting failure of the selected destination gateway to the redirect server, wherein the succeeding destination gateway can communicate with a public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (d) to (g) until a destination gateway is determined to be available for establishing said communication session or until all destination gateways from said routing information have been determined to be unavailable.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of recording a destination gateway status as out-of-service if the response from said destination gateway is not received within said predetermined time.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said step of recording records said destination gateway status as out-of-service in a gateway information table stored within the RS.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of receiving a call setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent

includes the step of addressing said call setup request to a proxy address of the at least one proxy server.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said step of receiving a call setup request at the at least one proxy server from the source user agent includes the step of~~ further comprising:

counting a number of received requests subsequent to said call setup request at the at least one proxy server.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one proxy server comprises a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one proxy server comprises an H.323 gatekeeper.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of responding to the forwarded call setup request from said at least one proxy server received at the RS includes determining the status of a group of destination gateways.

10. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the status of each of said group ~~or~~ of destination ~~gateway~~ gateways is one of in-service ~~and~~ or out-of-service.

11. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein if the destination gateway status if recorded as out-of-service in a gateway information table and ~~its associated~~ a time value associated with the recorded status is greater than a current ~~absolute RS~~ time, the gateway address is not added to a routing list of said routing information.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein if the destination gateway status is recorded as out-of-service in a gateway information table and ~~its associated~~ a time value associated with the recorded status is less than or equal to a ~~the~~ current ~~absolute RS~~ time, the gateway address is added to a routing list of said routing information and recorded as in-service.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further including the step of sending a message from the at least one proxy server to a network manager to record the status of a destination gateway.

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of forwarding a request failure response to the source user agent upon receiving the request failure response from the ~~at least one proxy~~ redirect server, and terminating the communication session.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of resending the call setup request to the selected destination gateway a

predetermined number of times when the response is not received within the predetermined time.

16. (previously presented) A system for allowing a call to be completed in a communication session between a calling party and a called party, which comprises:

a first telephony system including at least one source user agent (SUA);

a second telephony system including at least one destination user agent (DUA);

an IP network connected between said first and second telephony systems;

a plurality of ingress gateways for interfacing said IP network to said first telephony system

a plurality of egress gateways for interfacing said IP network to said second telephony system;

an IP telephony proxy server for selecting one of said plurality of egress gateways for completing said call based on routing information received by the IP telephony proxy server, wherein the IP telephony proxy server receives a call setup request from the source user agent that identifies the destination user agent;

an IP redirect server for providing the routing information to said IP telephony proxy server; and

a network management system for receiving and storing status changes of destination gateways, said network management system being in communication with said IP telephony proxy server.

17. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the IP

telephony proxy server is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) proxy server.

18. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the IP telephony proxy server is an H.323 gatekeeper.

19. (currently amended) A method for detecting an available destination gateway from a plurality of destination gateways in an IP network for completing a communication session between a source user agent in a public switched telephone network and a destination user agent in a public switched telephone network, wherein the source user agent provides a call setup request that identifies the destination user agent, said method comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a message to one of said plurality of destination gateways from a server to ascertain an availability status of said one of said plurality of destination gateways, wherein said one of said plurality of destination gateways can communicate with the public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent;

b) waiting for an acknowledge response from said one of said plurality of destination gateways for a predetermined period of time;

c) determining if said one of said plurality of destination gateways is available if said acknowledge response is received within said predetermined period of time; and

d) transmitting said message to a succeeding gateway of said plurality of destination gateways, <u>if said acknowledge response is not received within said predetermined period of time,</u> wherein said succeeding gateway can communicate with the public switched telephone network that includes the destination user agent.

20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising repeating steps (b) to (d) until the availability status of each of said plurality of destination gateways has been determined.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein if said acknowledge response is not received within a predetermined period of time, said availability status of said destination gateway is said to be out-of-service.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein if said one of said plurality of destination gateways is determined to be available, then said availability status is determined to be in-service.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the routing information identifies at least one destination gateway that can handle the call according to status information tracked by the redirect server.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the call setup request identifies the destination user agent by specifying the address of the destination user agent.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the address of the destination user agent includes the real IP address of the destination user agent.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the redirect server tracks status of at least one destination gateway.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the call setup request identifies the destination user agent by specifying the address of the destination user agent.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 27, wherein the address of the destination user agent includes the real IP address of the destination user agent.